



Durham

Environmental Affairs Board

M i n u t e s

July 27, 2004 ■ 6:00 p.m.

Conference Room A
Ground Floor, City Hall

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Matthew Greenwolfe, Will Anderson, Judy Kincaid, Dock Terrell, Bill Harnett, Rick Crume, and Howard Glasgow

Members Absent: Sharon Beard, Kathi Beratan, Darryl Roberts, and Ahrash Bissell

Guests Present:

Staff Present: Doug Vaughn, Glen Whistler, Vicki Westbrook, Chuck Hill, and Kathleen Snyder

Minutes:

Secretary Will Anderson, presiding over the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, called meeting to order. Bill Harnett motioned to approve the meeting notes of June 22, 2004. Judy Kincaid seconded the motion, which was approved 7 - 0.

Announcements

Kathleen Snyder made the following announcements: (1) indicators discussion would be postponed in favor of continuing discussion of air quality; and (2) introduced large packet of handouts containing information about the ongoing air quality efforts of the City and County of Durham and a few efforts from Wake County and Mecklenburg County to review.

Old Business

1. **Excused Absence Definition** – The Board discussed formulating definition of "excused absence" and generally favored a well-defined approach. Ms. Kincaid moved to amend Section 5.8 of the Bylaws of the EAB to include the following definition:

An excused absence shall be any absence due to illness, medical appointment, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday or service that is recognized as such by all members of the faith, subpoena by a law enforcement agency, mandatory court appearance, or travel necessitated by one's employment.

The motion to propose this definition as an amendment to the Environmental Affairs Board Bylaws Section 5.8 was approved by a vote of 6-1. Dock Terrell dissented on

grounds that giving notice of an absence should excuse a board member for any reason whatsoever.

2. **Air Quality Initiative Discussion** – The Board then discussed the air quality initiative. Mr. Harnett presented the report he put together at the request of the Board at the last meeting. This report contained background information on air quality issues and identified areas of work that the EAB might consider undertaking. Mr. Harnett's report for the EAB's efforts has two main foci, which are the preparation of a report of all current efforts that affect Durham's air quality and the development of a public education program. Mr. Harnett made a few references to the Air Quality in the Triangle Region report prepared by the NC Division of Air Quality. Copies of the report were provided to the members. Ms. Kincaid and Rick Crume questioned whether the scope of air quality initiative should address only non-attainment or be broader in reach. Ms. Snyder said that Felix Nwoko in the Durham Public Works Department is in the process of updating and implementing of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Local Action Plan for the City of Durham. Ms. Kincaid was extremely skeptical of this effort given the amount of resources necessary for the task, but acknowledged that it would be wonderful if it were in fact true. The Board agreed that having Mr. Nwoko speak to Board on this matter would be helpful and that they would like to invite him to the next meeting. Mr. Harnett went into more detail about the content of his report. Mr. Terrell noted that public education would be difficult. Ms. Snyder mentioned that the NC Division of Air Quality does have an education program called the Air Awareness Program. Matthew Greenwolfe noted that education of a narrow segment of society would be more likely to succeed. Ms. Kincaid noted that without a dedicated office with staff, none of the Board's recommendations would ever be implemented. She recommended that a Community and Environment Office be created to handle the implementation. The Wake County Air Quality Task Force was used as an example of how another municipality had approached the issue of air quality and how they have sought to implement their plan. Judy Kincaid noted that the message of any report to the County Commissioners or the City Council should simple to be effective. Ms. Snyder would continue to work on her matrix that identifies area air quality efforts such as the Wake County Report, TTA, and NC Division of Air Quality. There was discussion about how power plants and autos contributing to local air degradation. Much of the discussion centered on the benefits and the possible use of bio-diesel as an alternative fuel to regular diesel. From the discussion, a suggestion for the municipalities to encourage the use of bio-diesel is to require contractors bidding on municipal projects to modify their vehicles and/or to use bio-diesel in them.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. upon a 7-0 vote to the delight of Ms. Kincaid who was on her way to her birthday dinner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Will Anderson, Secretary
August 4, 2004